polarization hologram portion is formed by sandwiching a diffraction grating made of a birefringent material and a wave film having an optical thickness of (N + 1/5) $\lambda 1$ (wherein N indicates an arbitrary natural number) between two glass substrates, the thin film structure is attached to either one of the glass substrates and varies an aperture area respectively for two lights with wavelengths $\lambda 1$ and $\lambda 2$ ($\lambda 1 < \lambda 2$) passing through the aperture element.

REMARKS

Applicant submits that the above amendments are fully supported by the original specification and that no new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims are solely made to cancel claims in accordance with a restriction requirement issued in the parent application of this application and not made in view of prior art. Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04558/038002).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/10/03

#45,079

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Marked-Up Versions of the Amended Claims

12. (Amended) An optical information processor performing at least either one of information recording and information reproduction with respect to an information recording medium, comprising:

a light source;

an objective lens for focusing light emitted from the light source on the information recording medium;

a separation element for separating light from the information recording medium from an optical path to the light source;

first photodetectors for receiving light separated by the separation element,

wherein an aperture NA1 in a first optical path from the light source to the information recording medium and an aperture NA2 in a second optical path from the information recording medium to the first photodetectors are formed so as to satisfy a relationship of NA1 > NA2 [The optical information processor according to claim 1],

wherein the aperture in the second optical path is formed of an aperture element comprising a polarization hologram portion and a thin film structure, the polarization hologram portion is formed by sandwiching a diffraction grating made of a birefringent material and a wave film having an optical thickness of $(N + 1/4)\ \lambda 1$ (wherein N indicates an arbitrary natural number) between two glass substrates, the thin film structure is attached to either one of the glass substrates and varies an aperture area respectively for two lights with wavelengths $\lambda 1$ and $\lambda 2$ ($\lambda 1 < \lambda 2$) passing through the aperture element.

15. (Amended) An optical information processor performing at least either one of information recording and information reproduction with respect to an information recording medium, comprising:

a light source;

an objective lens for focusing light emitted from the light source on the information recording medium;

a separation element for separating light from the information recording medium from an optical path to the light source;

wherein an aperture NA1 in a first optical path from the light source to the information recording medium and an aperture NA2 in a second optical path from the information recording medium to the first photodetectors are formed so as to satisfy a relationship of NA1 > NA2 [The optical information processor according to claim 1],

wherein the aperture in the second optical path is formed of an aperture element comprising a polarization hologram portion and a thin film structure, the polarization hologram portion is formed by sandwiching a diffraction grating made of a birefringent material and a wave film having an optical thickness of (N + 1/5) $\lambda 1$ (wherein N indicates an arbitrary natural number) between two glass substrates, the thin film structure is attached to either one of the glass substrates and varies an aperture area respectively for two lights with wavelengths $\lambda 1$ and $\lambda 2$ ($\lambda 1 < \lambda 2$) passing through the aperture element.